Advances in type 1 diabetes (T1D) treatments making difference for family facing a double challenge

Shelley-Ann Parsons and her son Nicholas held up their insulin pumps that enable them to keep their blood glucose levels in a stable range.

“Living with T1D is a full-time job. This disease is with you for life and the obstacles that come with it never take a break.”

Dave Prowten, president and CEO of JDRF Canada

Shelley-Ann Parsons has a special bond with her son Nicholas—both have been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes (T1D). Living with T1D has had a huge impact on all Kluftinger-Parsons family members as they learn to deal with their son’s disease and try to overcome the obstacles that come with T1D.

Ms. Parsons explains, “I’m not only Nicholas’ mom, but also his diabetes monitor.” Ms. Parsons adds that she has become an advocate for other families facing a similar fate. A key part of her efforts involves Ms. Parsons’ active engagement with the JDRF, whose work she laces in making a vital difference. “As the leading global funder of type 1 diabetes (T1D), the mission of the JDRF is to cure, prevent and treat T1D.”

Noticing increased thirst and fatigue activities such as JDRF’s TELUS Walk to Cure Diabetes. "Fire fighters who came to support us, " said Nicholas proudly, recalling the moment when he raised funds with a marathon run.

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T1D is a disorder of the immune system. In this disease, the body’s immune system attacks and destroys the insulin-producing cells of the pancreas, thereby preventing or impeding the production and distribution of insulin, a hormone necessary for normal growth, development, and repair. As a result, blood glucose levels remain out of control and may be too high or too low. This can lead to serious complications, such as blindness, kidney disease, nerve damage, stroke, heart disease and amputation.

T1D is a lifetime condition. People living with T1D are at risk for developing complications, such as blindness, kidney disease, nerve damage, stroke, heart disease and amputation.

JDRF (formerly known as Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) is a non-profit organization founded in Canada in 2003. JDRF aims to find a cure for all individuals living with T1D by the year 2030.

Over the last four decades, JDRF-funded research has played an important role in accelerating progress toward finding a cure. More recently, JDRF has broadened its research objectives to include improving the lives and health of those who live with T1D and those who may yet be diag- nosed. JDRF’s research goals are realized by projects that support three basic areas: cure, treat and prevent.

Cure research focuses on restoring normal euglycemia (normal blood sugar levels) and the body’s euglycemic immune response. Treatment research looks at developing new devices and therapies that transform the way people with T1D treat the disease today in order to help them live healthier lives. Prevention research aims to keep future generations from getting T1D by stopping the disease at an early stage.